

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 12-24 with the following paragraph:

Marahiel *et al.* (Marahiel *et al. Chem. Rev.* 1997, 97, 2651-2673) previously reported highly conserved core motifs of the catalytic domains of cyclic and branched peptide synthetases. Based on multiple sequence alignments of several reported peptide synthetases the conserved regions A2, A3, A5, A6, A7 and A8 of adenylation and T of thiolation modules were targeted for the degenerate primer design (Turgay and Marahiel, *Peptide Res.* 1994, 7, 238-241). The wobble positions were designed in respect to codon preferences within the selected modules and the expected high G/C content of *Pseudomonas* sp. All oligonucleotides were obtained from ISOGEN (Bioscience BV). A PCR fragment was obtained when degenerate oligonucleotides derived from the YGPTE (SEQ ID NO: 35) (A5 core) and LGGXS (SEQ ID NO: 19) (T core) sequences were used. These oligonucleotides were denoted PS34-YG and PS6-FF, respectively.